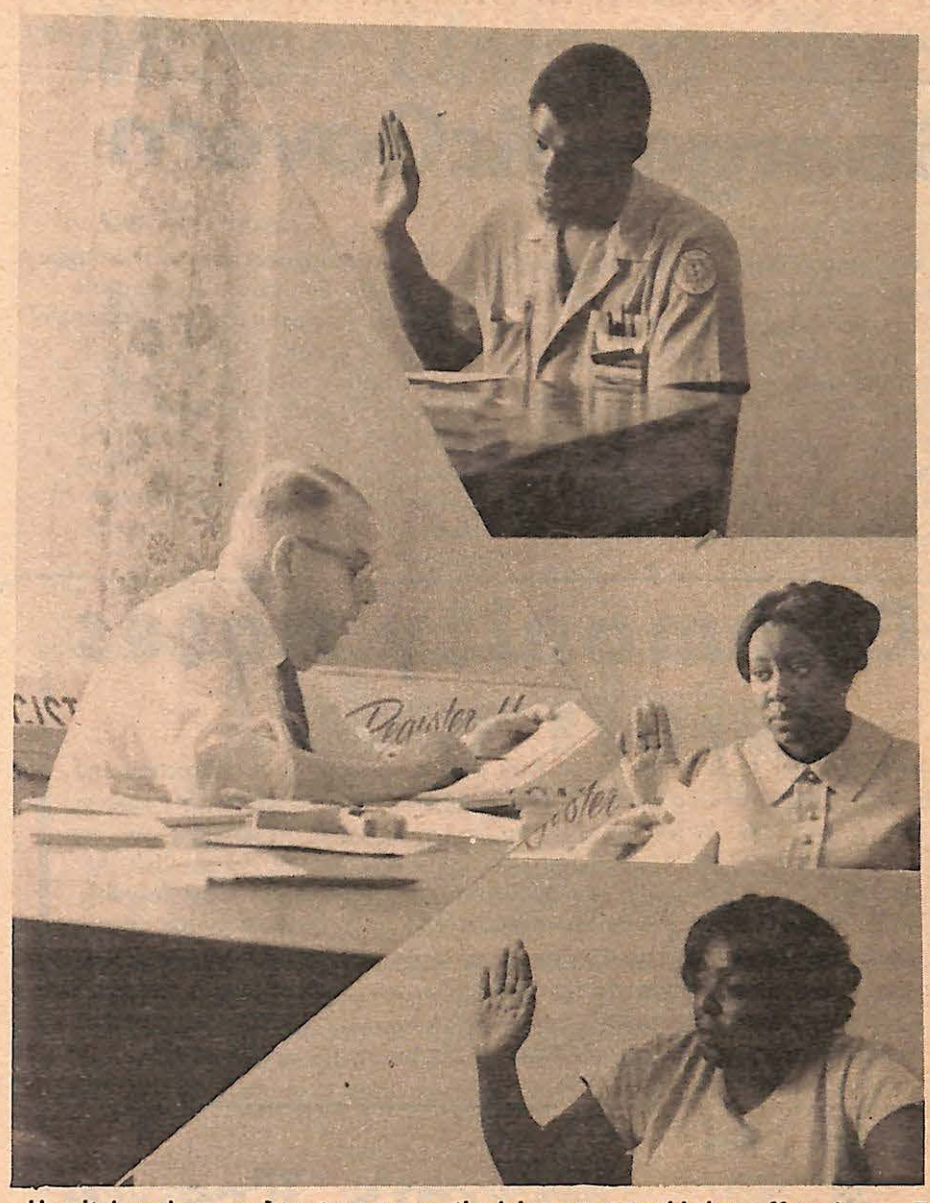
10¢

MODERN TIMES

"What you do is news!" Call 562-2510

Vol.III No. 8 **New Haven** September 1-14, 1972



Hospital workers register to vote on the job, and get paid time off to do so. The registrar came to the hospital cafeteria on Monday, August 28, and seventy-eight hospital employees registered.

(M-T photos by Vittorio Commisso)

Workers Paid To Register On Job

by Ray Milici
Concerned Hospital Workers

"We got paid by the boss for registering to vote. Maybe he didn't want to give us the paid half-hour off, but the law says he has to. Now that's the way things ought to work all the time."

On Monday, August 28, 1972, the hospital workers at Yale-New Haven got the right to vote in a new way. We did not have to find the office downtown where you register. We did not have to go through the expense and bother and confusion to register downtown on one of those rare nights when the registration office is open.

Instead, we got paid time off to register right at our workplace. It turns out that almost all workers have that right by law.

How We Did It

The Concerned Hospital Workers a group trying to build a union of the 1300 non-professional employees at Yale-New Haven - began our drive for on-the-job registration at our Third Annual Picnic this summer. There, many workers signed a Petition requesting New Haven's Registrar of Voters to come to the Hospital to register voters.

We had found out about a 1969 Connecticut State election law (Section 9-19C), which provides for voter registration at any workplace where 25 or more workers request to be registered.

Ms. McCoy, Committee Chairwoman of the registration drive, and Ms. Myrick, treasurer of the Concerned Hospital Workers, met with the Hospital's Director of Personnel, Mr. Grubbs. They informed him about the workers' rights under the law. They then requested that the Hospital set aside a place and date and time for registration to take place for those workers who were interested.

Mr. Grubbs agreed to cooperate. Within the next few days, Ms. McCoy, Mr. North from the Registrar of Voters office and Mr. Stanfiel from the Hospital made all the necessary arrangements.

Good Results

The results were excellent. In one day, 78 hospital workers became new voters. Even some nurses and doctors took advantage of this opportunity which the Concerned Hospital Workers had created.

The results were pretty much as we expected. 45 hospital workers chose to become registered Democrats. Ten registered as Republicans. The remaining 23 decided to be Independents.

Why We Did It

The main concern of the Concerned Hospital Workers is to organize our co-workers into a union. But we also feel that whoever is elected President will have a great effect on the lives of all working people. This election could mean the difference between war and peace, fewer jobs and more jobs, wage controls or none. In other years, maybe there wasn't much choice between the candidates. But there is a big difference between Richard Nixon who supports and is supported by big corporations and George McGovern who speaks more in the interest of working and unemployed people.

So our purpose is to extend the vote to as many workers as possible. Workers must have a voice in this election. This is clearly our responsibility. We hope other workers may find our registration drive useful in planning a drive at their workplaces.

Money Talks

Nixon's Freeze Fails

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

The first anniversary of Nixon's wage-price controls has just passed. The August 15, 1971 announcement shocked the nation. It showed everyone the seriousness of our economic problems. As we move into Year Number 2 of wage-price controls, let's see how they worked out.

When Nixon announced his bombshell, the US economy faced three economic crises at once. Continuing price rises were getting even worse. Unemployment, which already afflicted over 4 million American workers, was getting worse. And third, American trade with other countries – which must continue if we are to avoid another depression – was threatened by the perfectly understandable refusal of those countries to accept the shaky value of the US dollar.

Nixon's Score Sheet

What is Nixon's score on handling these problems? Price rises – as all shoppers know - have continued, led by meats. But in fairness to Nixon, we must say that the expected rise in consumer prices for 1972 - about 4% - is a good bit less than the 6% rates we saw in 1971. In fairness to working people, we have to add that Nixon has cut back workers' wage increases far more than he has cut price increases. So the average American working person is hardly any better off, thanks to Nixon.

Nixon's score goes down from here. More people are out of work now than when wage-controls started. The latest government statistics show a total of 5½ million Americans who are able to work, are looking for work and who have worked for a living all of their adult lives – **BUT WHO CAN NOT FIND WORK NOW.**

As for the foreign economic problems of the U.S., things are just as shaky and uncertain now as they were one year ago. Despite all the President's "tough talk," the U.S. accounts with our trading part-

See MONEY TALKS page 2

We Want To Survive!

Welfare MOMS and their families camp on the New Haven Green to protest fund cuts under the new flat grant system.

(MT photo by Ruth Resnick)

See Story Page 7

Fair Haveners Back George McGovern

by Andy Esposito
Fair Haven Responsible Democrats

The theme of a meeting of the Fair Haven Responsible Democrats (FHRD), held on August 30, was "How to win Fair Haven for McGovern-Shriver." The meeting, attended by members of the Fair Haven community, was held at the Tee-Off Restaurant, 101 Grand Avenue.

Ms. Catherine Quinn in discussing the general reason for supporting Senator McGovern stated: "McGovern has addresses himself to the economic issues which are of vital concern to working people." She also expressed her optimistic expectation for a victory this November.

One way of assisting the McGovern campaign is for the (FHRD) to help in the city-wide voter registration drive. Lynne Karsten, McGovern voter registration coordinator, detailed the overall plan of the voter registration drive. Special attention was given to the three page questionnaire used by the city of New Haven to discourage new voters from registering. Lynne stressed the fact that the registration will be conducted in cooperation with the regular Democratic Party. The last date for new voters to register is October 14.

McGovern Needs Votes

Simply registering new voters will not yield an election victory. Working people must also vote for George McGovern if he is to be elected. Therefore, the issues which are on workers minds must be discussed. The results of a poll developed by the (FHRD) were discussed by Kathy Quinn. The issues uppermost in the minds of Fair Haven residents are the bread and butter ones of taxes, inflation, and job security. McGovern has not, as yet, come across to working people on these issues. The poll also showed a large percentage (52%) of the voters apathetic toward McGovern. If this apathy is to be overcome, the economic issues must receive added emphasis.

Jack Penders stated that the general feeling in bars where working people gather is that McGovern is too far to the left. As examples, Penders cited McGovern's stands on welfare, amnesty, and abortion. Measurers will have to be taken to counteract this feeling if working people are to vote for him.

The general feeling of the group was summed up by Frank Annunziato when he said, "The thing which concerns me most is that the people who run the McGovern campaign appear to believe that they can win with the same coalition which won the primaries. This is not the case. A national election will be won only if the factory worker is convinced to vote."

This meeting was part of the ongoing effort of the Fair Haven Responsible Democrats to encourage the involvement of working people in the Democratic Party. Future meetings of the group will focus on such local issues as bus service and taxes. All interested Fair Haven residents are invited to attend. Watch for announcements of future meetings.

Community Notes

ROWING COURSE

The Committee to Save Edgewood Park filed a suit seeking an injunction and $1 million damages to stop plans for an Olympic-size rowing course at Edgewood and West River Parks. A hearing is set on September 21 at 10 AM and everyone is urged to attend to show their support for the suit. The suit charges that the rowing course would limit public access to the parks "during the most desirable periods of the week when the parks would be used for private corporate purposes."

Again the people of New Haven have to ask in whose interest is the Board of Aldermen acting when it approves the rowing course——the interest of those who live and work in New Haven or the corporate interests of Juan Trippe, former Pan American Airlines president and head of the International Rowing Course Foundation.

Will State Elections Be Held ?

Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

After three or four redistricing plans were thrown around in the Federal Courts, the State Supreme Court has ordered that the Republican engineered Sadin plan be adopted for state assembly and state senate elections this fall. Town registrars of voters were given one week with a September 1 deadline to redo the voting lists according to the new district lines and a September 9 deadline to have primary voting lists available.

State Demos Protest

State Democrats are contesting the decision in Federal courts again because the Sadin plan was already declared invalid by a 3 member panel of Federal judges. A decision on the Democrats appeal is not expected until October.

It is very possible there will be no state elections at all on November 7. The politicians are so eager to gain an advantage for their particular party that they are willing to make a mockery of the whole election process.

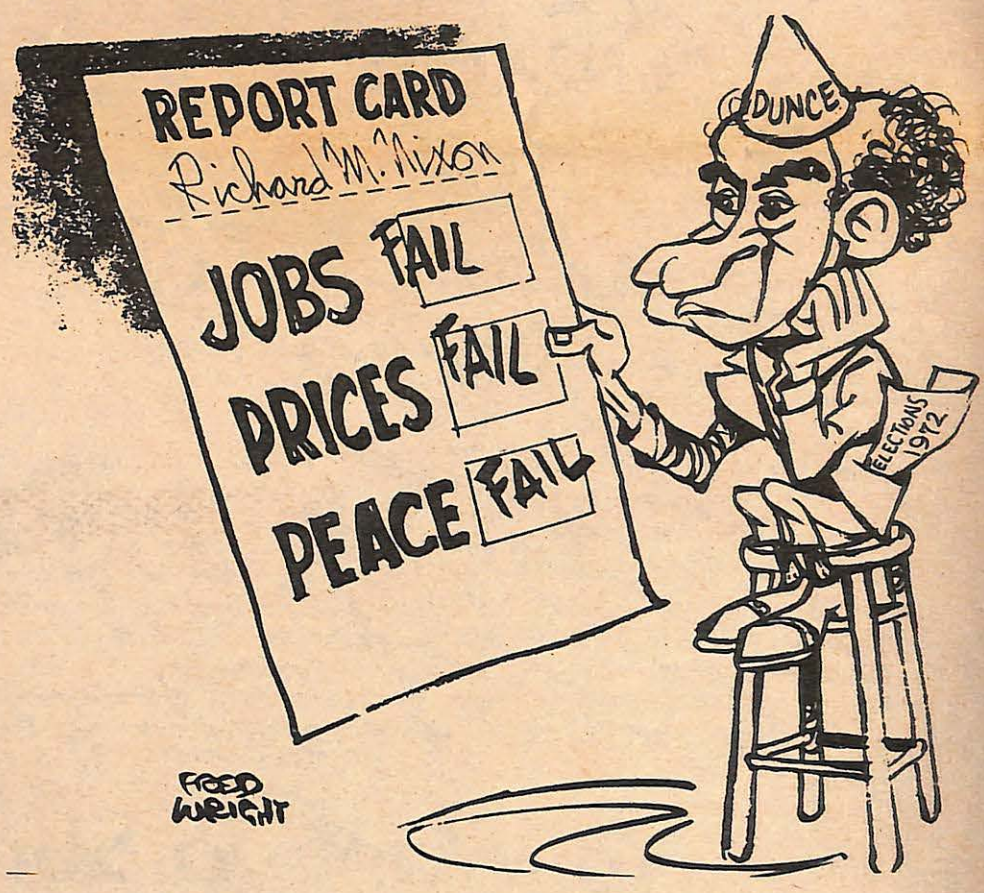
Meanwhile, in New Haven the Registrar of Voters office is working to redo the lists under extreme time pressure. Workers in the office are dismayed over the possible inaccuracies and potential mayhem on election day.

Districts All Around Town

Under the plan, New Haven will have five assembly districts (92-98), one of which will include part of West Haven, and two senatorial districts, one of which includes part of West Haven. According to a New Haven Democratic Party worker, of the two New Haven Senators - "Ciarlone will pick up part of Westville and Lieberman will pick up part of West Haven and a primary with Marcus.

Money Talks

Nixon's Freeze: Has It Worked?



continued from page 1

ners show higher deficits and debts now than they did a year ago. The International crisis continues.

Praise for Profits

With this pretty miserable record, how can we explain all the praise for Nixon's wage-price controls on TV and in most newspapers? The answer in one word is **PROFITS! As Modern Times** pointed out right after Nixon's August 1971 speech, the wage-price controls were really nothing more than a device to boost profits for large corporations.

And sure enough, here the record is very impressive. Profits for the 1000 biggest U.S. corporations showed the biggest jump in the first 6 months of 1972 of any half-year in history. Small business did not do well.

So big business has been very loud in its chorus of praise for Nixon (and in its contributions to his re-election campaign). The loudness of big business has a way of impressing TV commentators, who are, after all, the employees of big businesses. And George Meany's decision to be "Neutral" in the Presidential election has cut back AFL-CIO criticisms of Nixon.

Profits – Poor Solution

But we should not be misled. What is good for big business has proven to be no good for American workers. And what is more, the big profits for big business do not seem to have brought the economy any closer to solving the economic crises that brought on the wage-price controls in the first place.

To solve the severe economic problems besetting this country and to do so without further hurting the interests of American workers - these are the real urgent tasks of the time. It will take people very different from Nixon and policies very different from his to accomplish these tasks. The rosy words we hear and read should not hide this fact from us.

(In the next issue, we will look at what kind of economic program might solve these problems).

Let Us Boycott Lettuce

On thursday, August 31, 1972, the Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice were leafletting outside the Food Mart in Hamden, They were urging people to boycott non-union lettuce on behalf of the Farm Workers, and to boycott Wonder Bread, a subsidy of I.T.T. Among theose leafletting were Mary Johnson, Rose Brunswick, Lynn Hopson, Virginia Simon, and Tony Dominski.

(MT photo by Paul Gill)

Major Unions Back McGovern

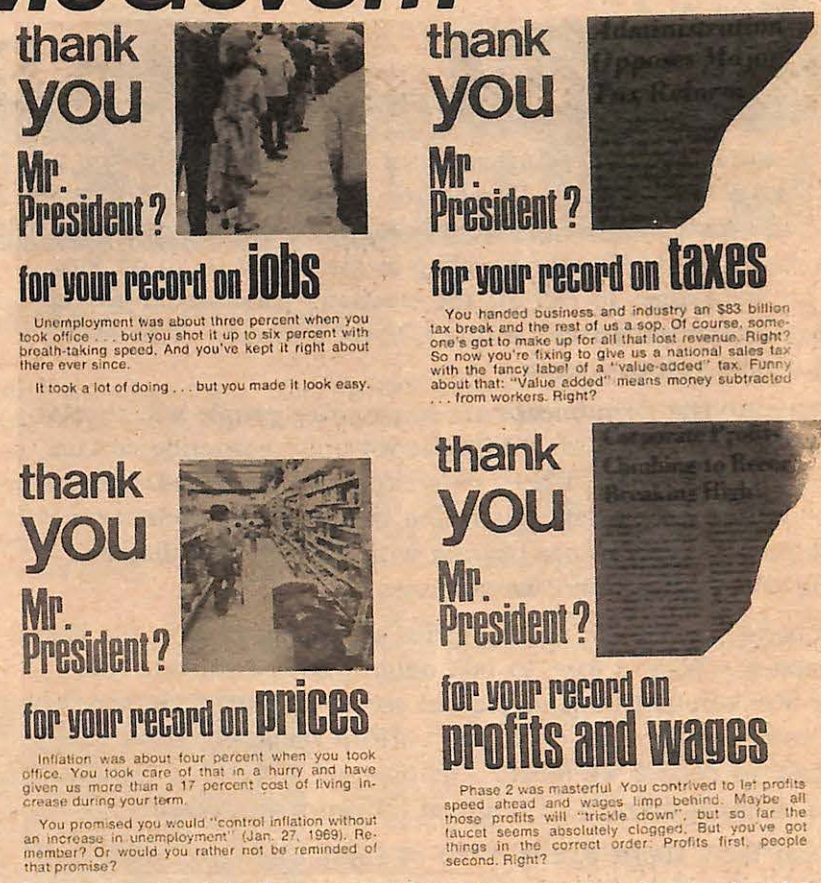
by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

Inspired by Nixon's anti-labor record, which the AFL-CIO heavily publicized for the past years, many large and small unions have formed "Labor for McGovern."

The new organization is headed by Joseph Beirne of the 450,000 Communications Workers of America. The new organization includes the 600,000 member Amalgamated Meat Cutters; 385,000 member Amalgamated Clothing Workers; and the 450,000 member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

The 1.5 million United Auto Workers, the International Association of Machinists, and most recently the American Federation of Teachers are all backing McGovern.

However, the AFL-CIO Executive Council did not even reconsider its position of neutrality in the Presidential race. Pro-McGovern labor leaders in New Haven say this means that Meany is "neutral for Nixon." The New Haven Central Labor Council at its last meeting voted to ask Meany to reconsider his position.


thank you Mr. President?
for your record on jobs
Unemployment was about three percent when you took office . . . but you shot it up to six percent with breath-taking speed. And you've kept it right about there ever since.
It took a lot of doing . . . but you made it look easy.
thank you Mr. President?
for your record on taxes
You handed business and industry an $83 billion tax break and the rest of us a sop. Of course, someone's got to make up for all that lost revenue. Right? So now you're fixing to give us a national sales tax with the fancy label of a "value-added" tax. Funny about that: "Value added" means money subtracted . . . from workers. Right?
thank you Mr. President?
for your record on prices
Inflation was about four percent when you took office. You took care of that in a hurry and have given us more than a 17 percent cost of living increase during your term.
You promised you would "control inflation without an increase in unemployment" (Jan. 27, 1969). Remember? Or would you rather not be reminded of that promise?
thank you Mr. President?
for your record on profits and wages
Phase 2 was masterful. You contrived to let profits speed ahead and wages limp behind. Maybe all those profits will "trickle down", but so far the faucet seems absolutely clogged. But you've got things in the correct order: Profits first, people second. Right?

This is an example of the important information on Nixon's record which COPE has stopped producing.

Meany Gets Mean Rebuttles

In a letter to Meany from the New Haven CLC, President Vincent Sirabella pointed out Nixon's consistent anti-labor record and McGovern's overwhelming pro-labor record.

Many other state and local AFL-CIO Central Labor bodies have petitioned Meany to reconsider. The Colorado Central Labor Council openly defied Meany and pledged support and money to McGovern. Meany has threatened to revoke their charter and put them under trusteeship if they don't rescind the pro-McGovern decision.

Even when they comply with the letter of the national council's orders many state and local AFL-CIO units make few bones about flouting the spirit. "Officially, we're neutral," says Roy Evans of the 210,000 member Texas federation. "Of course, we're neutral for McGovern."

Not All Remain Neutral - Silent

In Los Angeles, director Sol Arywitz plans a voter-education program aimed at underlining the errors and omissions of the Nixon position on organized labor. "There is nothing in the position of the council that says President Nixon's record should remain a secret."

However, the political muscle of the AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education (COPE) will for the most part be inactive during this year's Presidential election. In 1968, COPE raised over $6 million, registered close to 5 million new voters, sent out over 100 million pieces of campaign literature and set up telephone banks in 638 cities for Humphrey. It is doubtful that "Labor for McGovern" can mobilize that kind of political machine in such a short time.

Labor Notes

MILFORD CAFETERIA WORKERS AUTHORIZE STRIKE

In a unanimous rejection of the Milford Board of Education's terms for next year's contract, workers in the school system's cafeterias voted 47-0 to authorize their negotiating team to call a strike. Under Connecticut law these public employees have no right to strike, but workers felt the extremely poor terms proposed by the Board of Education forced them to give their representatives strike-calling power.

The Milford Board has insisted that there be no wage increase at all and refuses to discuss changes in manpower requirements even though they plan major changes in the school lunch programs. The cafeteria workers are represented by Local 217 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union. Talks are under way with Milford school system custodians (AFSCME Local 1566) to arrange cooperation and support for actions taken by the cafeteria workers.

COPE RECORD FAVORS McGOVERN

AFL-CIO President George Meany's bizarre declaration of neutrality on the Democratic and Republican presidential nominees suggests a more thorough look at their respective labor records.

The AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education (COPE) claims George McGovern's COPE record through the 92nd Congress was 71 right and 5 wrong. That's 93%! Nixon, meanwhile, is scored as 10 right and 59 wrong. A poor second.

Meany must be putting us on.

BUS DRIVERS

Another element of dismay in the current mass transit controversy is the state of negotiations between the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 281, representing bus drivers, and the Connecticut Bus Co.

The Connecticut Co. is refusing to negotiate any monetary demands, according to John Thompson, spokesman for the union. The Company's current position is that if the drivers stick to their demands of higher wages and increased benefits, they will completely halt bus service on September 30 of this year.

The union is continuing negotiations and has not yet made a final decision about their future course of action.

McGovern Campaign Opens In City

Volunteers work long hours in the new McGovern office at 135 Orange St. **(MT photo by Sergio Verillo)**

Modern Times Staff

The McGovern for President campaign is underway in New Haven. A freshly painted office is in operation at 135 Orange St. with voter registration lists and ward maps on the walls, volunteers busy on the telephones and typewriters, and McGovern-Shriver buttons, bumper stickers and posters in supply.

The initial activites are focused on voter registration. A large source of potential McGovern voters are between the ages of 18 and 24. A large percentage of this age group is still not registered to vote.

The McGovern campaign marks the first unified campaign effort of New Haven Democrats in many years. After the bitter fight over the presidential nomination in 1968, campaigns for party reform, and the Parker primary campaigns of 1969 and 1971, there will now be unity behind McGovern. Town Democratic Chairman Arthur Barbieri will head the New Haven campaign and Lee Novick of the Women's Political Caucus will be New Haven campaign coordinator.

This campaign should see McGovern volunteers and long established Democratic Party "regulars" working side by side. An older Democratic Party registrar in one inner-city ward complained that there are many people in his ward who won't register because he is a so-called "regular." He said he would need some younger McGovern volunteers to convince them.

In The Campaign Office

Larry Bye works full time in the McGovern office for no pay. He is unemployed. "I believe in the issues put forth by George McGovern," he said, "especially concerning the war in Vietnam. If Nixon is re-elected there will be another four years of madness in Vietnam."

Andy Esposito is a chemist and puts his spare time into working for McGovern at 135 Orange St. and in his neighborhood -- Fair Haven. He said that "four years of the Nixon administration has been disastrous for anyone who works for a living. Another four years of Nixon will be even more disastrous."

Dorey Sarkady is a dental hygenist from Bethany where she is voter registration chairwoman. She puts in a lot of time at the New Haven McGovern office. She feels "committed to George McGovern first and foremost because he's against the war."

Penny Goldwater is a third grade teacher at Winchester School and treasurer of the New Haven McGovern campaign. Most of the contributions to the campaign are small. "Over 85% of the contributions we receive are under $10."

Editorial — Even So, It's Worth Voting

As stories in this issue of *Modern Times* will show, the election game is in high gear. Connecticut Democratic and Republican leaders are in the courts pushing their different schemes to shuffle voting districts. Secretly, both would like the haggling in the courts to go on long enough for the judges to call off the election. That would give all our "elected representatives" another 2-year free ride. This makes a joke out of the voting process.

Nationally, the Republicans are hoping few people will register to vote. The Democrats are talking about only registering certain groups in the population, where they expect to find pro-Democratic leanings. While some voter registration is better than none, here again the political leaders are playing with the vote, bending and tampering with it for their own purposes.

And besides what the major parties are doing, there is the basic fact of money. What a joke to talk about "one-person-one-vote" when the Rockefellers of America can spend millions to influence people's votes, while most of us can't afford spending on publicity. We just talk to people we meet. The unequal division of wealth produces the unequal division of political influence and power.

The sad facts about voting make us angry. An institution that our ancestors fought for to make government serve its people has been corrupted and polluted to keep political power in the hands of the wealthy few.

Yet this situation DOES NOT call for people to throw away the right to vote. If used by working people who are determined to change the way the government works, the vote can become a weapon against those who use government for their private interests. A dull, bent knife can turn into a sharp, efficient cutting tool, when it is handled and used by people who know what it's for and how to make it serve.

Working people need to use every available method to forge a better life against the pressure of the big businesses and their political friends. The vote is one method. We encourage every eligible member of working families to register. We encourage them to find out which candidates and which parties best serve the needs of the majority of people. We encourage them to use their votes for those candidates and parties and against the enemies of working people, despite their efforts to make voting a joke.

If you can't get out and work in politics for these goals - and that is what we need most - at least use your own vote that way.

New Emphasis At Modern Times

Modern Times is reducing the number of pages so that we can put more time and energy into getting the paper out to more people. After all, we are not a business, but a service to working people in New Haven like ourselves.

We believe that *Modern Times* has done a good job the past three years in publishing news of interest and use to working people. However, thousands of New Haven residents - many of them potential readers - have rarely or never seen the paper. So we feel that now our most important task is to concentrate on getting *Modern Times* out to more people.

We regard the cutback to 8 pages as temporary, though. We expect the volunteers who produce *Modern Times* to gradually increase to the point where we can have extensive coverage and a well-run circulation department. Then we'll expand our pages back to 12 or to 16.

Volume III Number 8
Circulation 4,000

MODERN TIMES welcomes all comments and letters to the editor.

MODERN TIMES

Subscriptions: 148 Orange St., New Haven
Editorial Offices: 441 Chapel St., New Haven
562-2510

MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

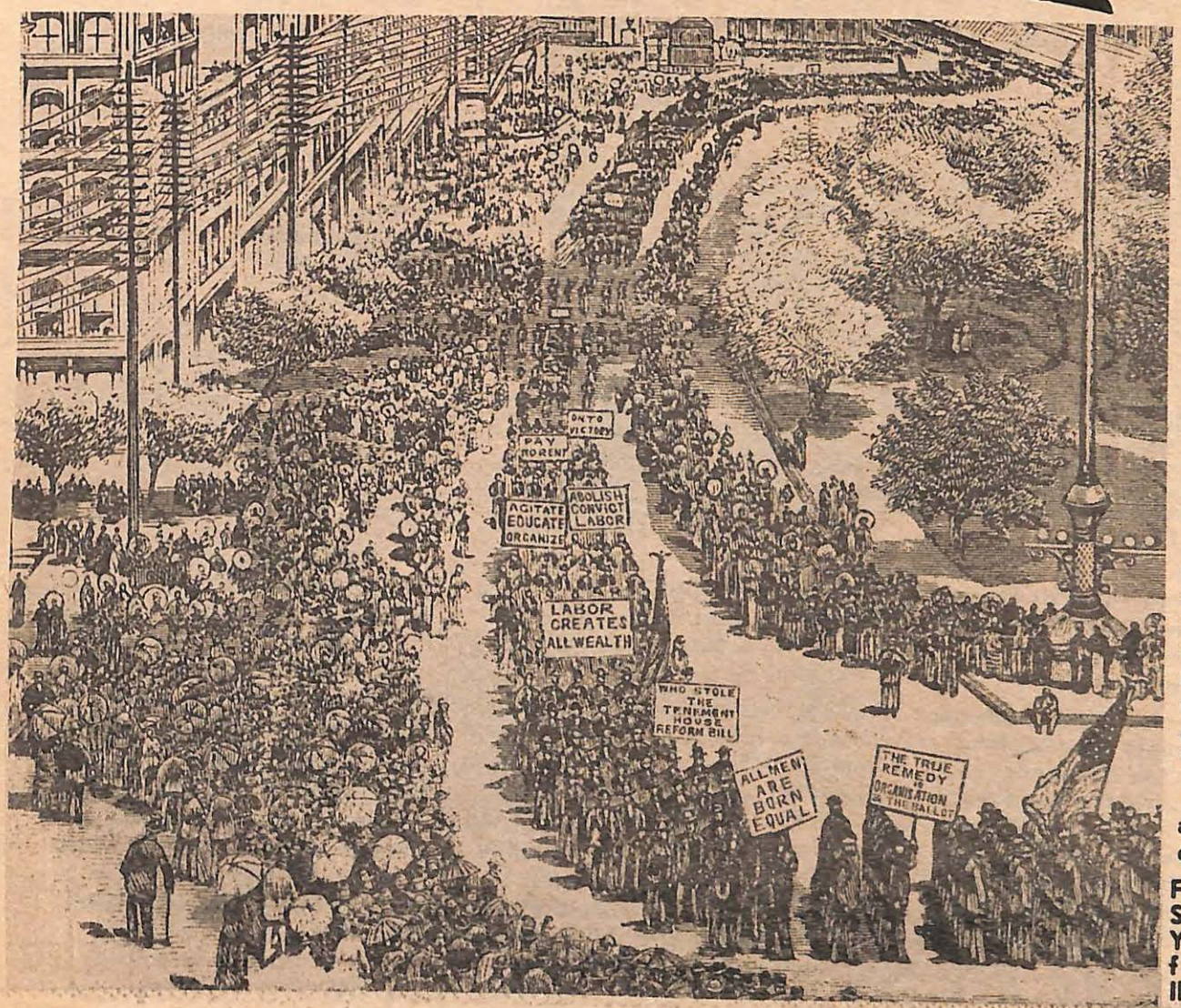
MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need—not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, George Andrews, Harry Andrews, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Jerry Cohen, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Tony Dominski, Art Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Beverly Gouaux, Stanley Heller, Liz Henderson, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Karl Lechow, Art Mazer, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Jim Jordan Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florie Ricciuti, Dick Wieland, Ed Breuler Henry Tamarin, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff

LABOR'S HOLIDAY


ONTO VICTORY
PAY RENT!
AGITATE EDUCATE ORGANIZE
ABOLISH CONVICT LABOR
LABOR CREATES ALL WEALTH
WHO STOLE THE TENEMENT HOUSE REFORM BILL
ALL MEN ARE BORN EQUAL
THE TRUE REMEDY ORGANIZATION AT THE BALLOT

First Labor Day parade, Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City. Drawing is from Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper of Sept. 16, 1882.

The idea of having a day of celebration for Labor was originated in the United States in the year 1882. Based on the findings of George Pearlman, a man named Matt Maguire, a machinist and secretary of the Central Labor Union, suggested at a meeting that the Union "call upon the trade and labor organizations of New York to join in a Labor Parade, the object being to make, if possible, a show of organized strength."

It took a few years for the idea to catch on. It wasn't until 1884 that the necessary steps were taken and the first Monday of September was recognized as a National Holiday. It has been celebrated as labor day in this country ever since, although in recent years it has been celebrated less than ever- there aren't even parades any more. It has become a day off from work rather than a day of celebration.

In almost every other country, Labor's Holiday is celebrated on the first of May. The Second Socialist International Congress of Paris declared May 1 as Labor Day in 1889. This was done upon a French-American proposal that an international day of struggle and demonstration of the working class should be celebrated in tradition of Chicago's great 'eight hour strike' of May 1, 1886.

The AFL, which was increasingly conservative at the time, chose instead to celebrate Labor Day on the first Monday of September.

EAST SIDE ROUND UP

Fair Haven Summer: Elections, Cleanup & Movies

by Frank Annunziato
Modern Times Staff

The Board of Directors election for the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation (FHNC) brought out more than 250 people. Fair Haveners went to choose eighteen neighbors, three from each of the six areas in Fair Haven. The vote was much higher than last year's total indicating that this year's work has been successful and that Fair Haveners are very supportive of their community organization.

The Corporation, controlled by neighborhood residents, administers thousands of dollars worth of programs for all parts of the Fair Haven community. To give you an example of the keen interest in the election, two women, Ernestine Wilkins and Betsy Price, conducted a successful write-in campaign.

Clean-up With A Flair

This summer the FHNC has been engaged in a Clean Up The Neighborhood project. Working with high school students from the Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC) program, many streets, backyards, and playground were spruced up. The highlight of the project, however, was the painting of the railroad bridge on Blatchley Avenue, near State Street.

Richard Nuzzo, who voluntarily supervised the work-crew program, came up with the brain storm to fix up that long neglected bridge. The response from the neighborhood has been overwhelmingly favorable. Maybe, the Redevelopment Agency could take a hint from this and simply repair, not destroy, the Grand Avenue Bridge. It would save a lot of money and look just as good.

Project Enough Inc. has moved in to their new headquarters at 286 Grand Avenue (the old San Guiliano Club). The Enough staff has totally re-done the place and it looks just great. From every indication, lots of kids have been using the place and plans for creating a teen age coffee house are in the thinking stage. The kids will love it. No doubt about it.

Speaking of Project Enough, one of the most exciting things they did this summer was to sponsor free out-door movies. Hundreds of people regularly attended (me included!) and got the double treat of seeing a good movie for nothing as well as being outdoors on those hot summer nights. Who will ever forget the thrill of seeing King Kong knocking out all those airplanes from the walls of the Christopher Columbus School?

Dark Political Secrets

Turning to politics. . .What's going to happen to Alderman Ray O'Neil (D-11)? Newspaper accounts several weeks ago claimed that he was giving up his aldermanic seat and moving his family to Florlida. Now rumor has it that his Florida plans fell through and O'Neil is staying. The situation is complicated because he has already sold his house. Is he going to relocate in the 11th ward or will residents of that ward be forced to accept an outsider as their alderman?

O'Neil's possible move raised a couple of interesting questions. 1. When an alderman leaves office in mid-term, how is another one chosen? Answer: he or she is appointed by the mayor. Question 2. But, how does the mayor know who to choose? Answer: That's a deep dark secret.

In O'Neil's case, no meetings were held—either of all the voters or of just the Democrats. How could the mayor know who the voters of the ward wanted? Answer: That's a deep dark secret.

Write On

CORRECTION — *WIN*
To the Editor:

Your article in your July 15-31 issue entitled "Welfare Clients forced to Work" contained one very serious error. Child Care and Transportation for mothers who participate in a training program will continue to be paid by WIN (Work Incentives Program) under the Talmadge Amendment. In addition, a $30 per month "Incentive" is paid by the Connecticut State Employment Service's WIN Division. As you stated in the article, the emphasis is from training for skilled positions to direct employment. However, I feel it would be a disservice to your readers to give the impression that WIN no longer allows welfare recipients to participate in a training program. There are several opportunities for training that WIN will finance as long as they do lead to employment and as long as the recipient does not have skills that make her readily employable. These are limited to a six months duration with an exception of one year for Licensed Practical Nurse training.

Sincerely yours,
Leonard Zollo
Counselor for WIN

FOR GAY RIGHTS
To the Editors:

This newspaper takes a progressive and humane viewpoint on most matters. I have seen most of your issues and I have noticed that you give consistent coverage of oppressed groups in New Haven with the exception of homosexuals.

I have never read anything you wrote about gay rights. If you have published anything about gays it has been a rare occurence.

Gays face a bigotry so sick that it approaches racism in pervasiveness and paranoia. The New Haven police use decoys to frame up gays on prostitution and other disgusting charges. Verbal harassment by police is very common. This includes ugly swearwords like "queer" and "faggot". None of this would go on if the mayor and other political leaders forbade it.

Sincerely yours,
Freeman Cocroft
New Haven

FARINAS
To the Editor:

Juan Farinas, a former member of Local 241 of the Transport Workers Union, in New York City, is a 24 year old Cuban born worker who is now serving a two-year sentence in the Danbury Prison for violation of the Selective Service Act. He was convicted because he attempted to distribute a leaflet opposing the war in his induction center in 1968.

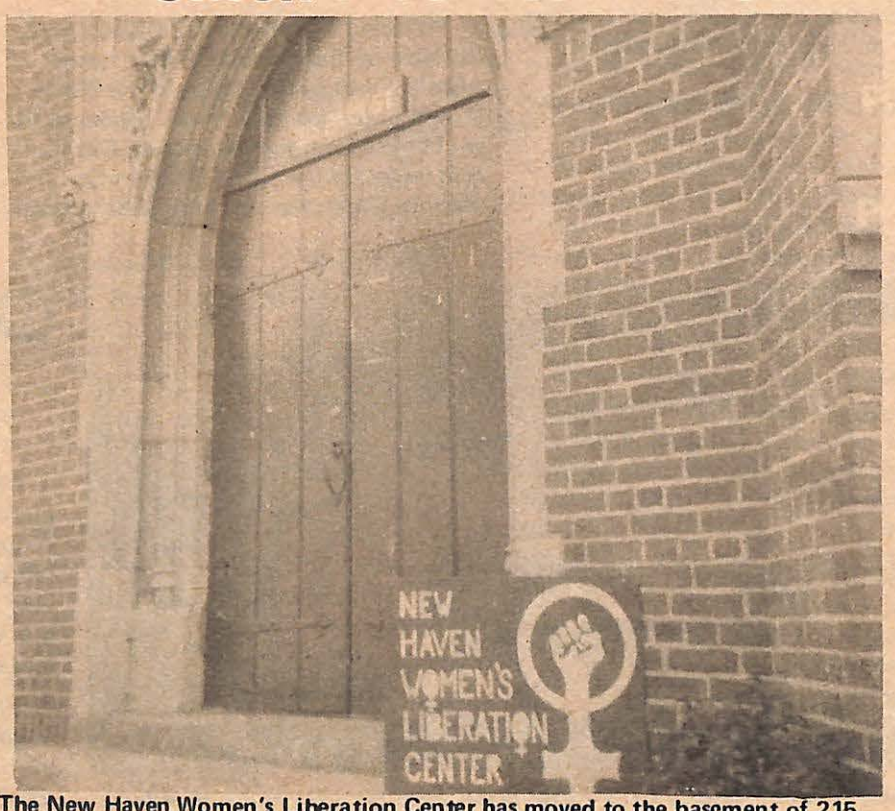
Farinas is eligible for parole as of September 20, after he has served six months of his sentence. The Parole Board is at this very moment considering his request for parole and may hand down its decision at any time. All are urged to send letters to the U.S. Board of Parole, 101 Indiana Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20537. Copies of the letters and requests for further information should be mailed to the Juan Farinas Defense Committee, P.O. 7417, Kilby Station, New Haven, Conn. Contributions are urgently needed for publicity and support of Farinas' family.

Farinas did not and would not refuse induction. He has maintained that the only issue in his case was his right and the right of all workers to oppose the criminal war in Vietnam. He considers the prosecution against him as part of the government's furious anti-labor campaign. The administration is ripping up contracts, the courts are issuing sweeping injuctions against picketing, the government is doing everything in its power to make labor pay for the war and for the economic crisis. In West Haven, a law suit by the Cost of Living Council is attempting to force members of the International Typographers Union Local 47 to pay back to the Meredith Corporation that part of their 7.45% raise which "unlawfully" exceeds the Pay Board's 5.5% limit.

All are urged to strike a blow against the war and for the democratic rights of all workers, by appealing for parole for Juan.

Juan Farinas Defense Committee
New Haven

Women's Center Moves



The New Haven Women's Liberation Center has moved to the basement of 215 Park St. A schedule of new hours for the center is still in the process;late morning early afternoon and early evening are good times to visit the center for now. A phone will be installed soon. (M-T photo by R. Resnick)

Motel Workers Win Long Strike In Norwalk

by Stan Heller
Modern Times Staff

"Six weeks is a long time to be on strike. But you stick it out if you've got no choice. And that's the story of the workers at the Norwalk Holiday Inn."

The Norwalk strike is now over and the strikers have their victory. Management has been forced to agree to hold an election where the workers can choose whether they want union representation. The following is an account of experiences picketing written by a local unionist who helped walk the line.

The maids and custodians were trying to organize a union when the manager fired four of the most union-conscious workers. Sure that's illegal, but it might literally take years to try to bring the company before the National Labor Relations Board. So the workers went on strike.

Yesterday and Today

A strike. When I was a kid the word strike brought me visions of thousands of pickets marching around empty factories menacing scabs and bosses alike. That's not at all the situation in a motel strike.

The motel stays open. Managers and bellboys do the cleaning until they can hire enough high school students to come in and scab. And the customers continue to flock in.

For the 20 strikers in Norwalk, that means walking and more walking. It means patrolling the two driveways in front of the monstrous 240 room Holiday Inn morning, noon and night, hoping that customers will respect the line and stay away. It's a dull, tiring business. Especially when you do it for six weeks.

Walking the Line

To bolster up the lines and to encourage the strikers, the Hotel and Restaurant Employee Union, which now represents the workers, scheduled several times for mass picketing. They arranged for members from other locals and other unions to come down to the line and spend a few hours walking, chanting and maybe singing. That's where I came in to the picture, driving down with a group from New Haven.

Walking the line gives you mixed feelings of power and powerlessness. On the one hand, with fifty brothers and sisters around, you feel confident enough to yell at customers crossing the line and to taunt the manager and his flunkies when they come prowling around.

On the other hand, you know you're not having much effect. The majority of customers keep coming in and not many motel services have been cut. The restaurant supposedly not owned by the Holidy Inn, is functioning normally. The restaurant workers there say they have a "nice boss" and won't unionize or strike.

So you walk and you walk and you hang on. Your main goal is to convince, harangue or bluff customers and outside service workers into respecting your picket line. When you're successful everyone gives a big cheer and applauds. When you're not, it's time for some well-worded insults and jeers. The reasoning behind this is that they might get sick of the treatment and leave early.

Scab Customers

There are mainly three reactions of the scab customers. One, they say "yes you have the right to strike, but I have the right to do what I want." These are the "pious neutrals". It doesn't occur to them that they're not neutral when they continue to pay the Inn their $24 a day.

Then there are the people who pretend that nothing at all is going on. The windows on their air-conditioned Pontiac or Caddy are rolled up and they stare straight ahead. Worst of all are the people who tear through the driveway and expect you to dive out of their way. They could care less if they hit someone.

Now you might expect that the police would warn these creeps that they're liable for arrest or a reckless driving charge. No way. Not in Norwalk. The police maintain complete neutrality . . .in favor of the boss. Every mass picket there are three or four car-loads of police making sure we don't open the lines for cars too slowly or some other such atrocity. But you never see them slowing down fools who speed through the picket line.

Neutral Justice

One day one of the Wackenhut guards hired by the Holiday Inn started pushing around one of the union business agents. So the police came and made an arrest. . . of the business agent.

So the walking goes on. Thirty-six days, eight to sixteen hours a day.

P.S. The week of August 7th the strikers were slapped with a court injunction forbidding all mass picketing. Hurrah for neutral courts. . .neutral for the boss.

Hawkins Strike In 9th Week

by Ruth Resnick and Patti Miller
Modern Times Staff

Picketers of Hawkins Convalescent Home claim that Ralph Kantrowitz, owner and operator of the home, is guilt of running a criminally sub-standard institution. They say he's responsible for a gross lack of proper facilities and care for the 45 patients and that he's responsible for the abuse of his employees. The kitchen workers, nurses aides and housekeepers of the home, members of Local 1199, are now in their 9th week of a strike against these conditions, on behalf of themselves as well as the patients.

On March 22, 1972, by a vote of 23-2 in a National Labor Relations Board supervised election, Local 1199 was voted in to represent the workers in negotiaiions with Kantrowitz. The workers were demanding higher salaries (some workers are getting $1.60-$1.85 hourly wage), benefits (picketers claim that now there are none), and better facilities and care for the patients. The workers on strike who were interviewed for this article say that Kantrowitz bargained unfairly by refusing to negotiate on his stand against a union shop, on his offer of $.20 per hour raise over the next three years and on his refusal to provide a medical plan for the workers. Negotiations were halted July 7th as the union called a strike.

Moldy Bread

In speaking with picketers Modern Times learned that Kantrowitz used to have discount bread bought, fifteen loaves for a dollar, and then the kitchen help would sometimes have to sort out the moldy pieces! One of the women interviewed said that the ceilings in the home have been leaking for over twenty years. Every time it rains, she said, pots and pans are used to catch the water. Modern Times was also told that half the windows in the home have no screens and insects become quite a problem in the warm weather.

Some of the patients in the home are clients of the state and as such receive $9.50 a month as spending money. We were told that Kantrowitz often takes this money and doesn't use it to even buy clothes for the patients, commodities which the picketers said the patients need very much. Seven weeks before the strike and again one week before the strike the workers presented Kantrowitz with a list of the patients' needs, lists which they claim he ignored.

Behind Hawkins Convalescent Home , strikers stand holding their picket signs. They have been striking for over five weeks. From left to right they are Patty Marshall, housekeeper, Roosevelt Ward, 1199 organizer, Geraldine Norton, housekeeper, Francesca Sawicki, Nurses Aide, and Melinda Cuomo, housekeeper.

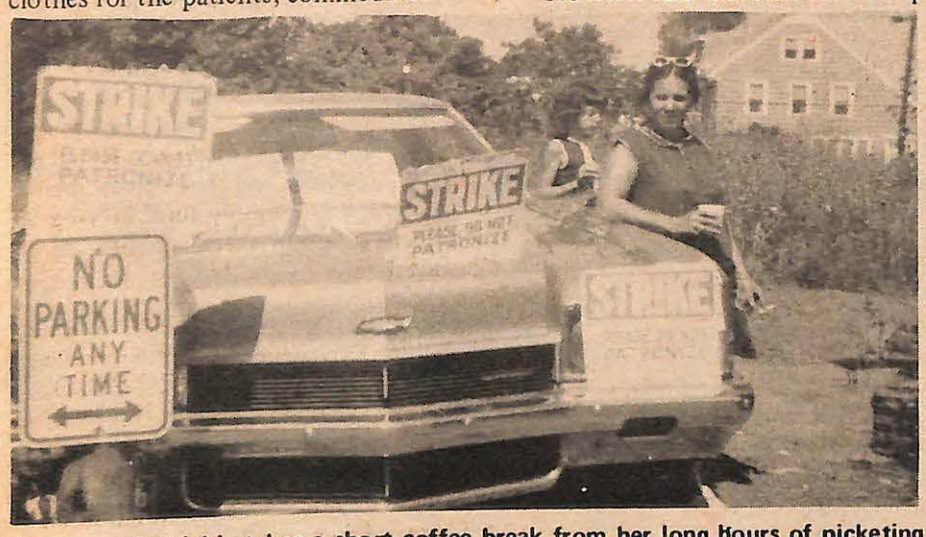
(MT photo by Patricia Miller)

The picketers said that they often donate food to the patients and that the families of patients frequently bring their relatives food or take them out to dinner. The reason for this, we were told, is that Kantrowitz fired the cook who refused to cross the picket line and now scab workers are failing to provide patients with the food to which they were accustomed.

Picketing unionists say that Kantrowitz was slow on fixing the hot water system when it broke down. "We washed dishes in cold water for three weeks! Some of us got blisters from wringing out clothes in cold water for ten days." It seems that that machinery was also broken for a time.

Picketers said that Kantrowitz is prejudiced against black people. Before the strike the only black woman on the staff, we were told, was so harassed by Kantrowitz that she quit after her hours were cut. The picketers claim that he knew that she needed five days work when he cut her time down to two days. "Now he's hiring black people as scabs to create more tension." Picketers say that they realize he hopes they're as prejudiced as he is, but they recognize his shallow tactic.

On behalf of the union cause, their working conditions, the fired worker, and the patients of the home, 1199ers of Hawkins Convalescent Home picket from 6a.m. - 11p.m. every day. They say the state comes in every so often to inspect conditions but seems to be taking little action. "We need the cooperation of the patients' families", the picketers said, and of course would appreciate help from others. Few know of this strike although the home is nearby in West Haven on Ocean Avenue, less than five minutes beyond Jimmies restaurant. As one of the unionists said, "We plan on staying out 'til it's settled. We're not giving up!"



Francesca Sawicki takes a short coffee break from her long hours of picketing. The smartly decorated car sits behind the Hawkins Convalescent Home in West Haven.

(MT photo by Patricia Miller)

ON THE DAY BEFORE NHFT DESERVES MORE

When New Haven teachers left for summer recess, contract talks with the Board of Education were non-existent. The Board had refused to discuss the issues of a new two year contract with the New Haven Federation of Teachers. The Board pushed for mediation which it knew would be fruitless.

Over the summer, the Board still refused to give in on its "more work for no more pay" proposals of last spring. These proposals created the crisis in the first place.

After the last arbitration hearing early in August, some of the arbitrators went on vacation. A decision was not given to the 1500 returning teachers *until the day before school started.*

What Next?

The Board has refused to extend the old contract so that teachers are also returning to work without job security. What's next? It's up to the Board of Education. Will they continue to argue that overworked teachers will save taxpayers money even while the city spends millions putting up more and more downtown garages?

Welfare MOMS Camp In On Green

by Stan Heller
Modern Times Staff

"We'll camp and sleep here on the Green until the legislature turns Flat Grant Welfare into a decent system. We have to do something now. There's no way we can survive on those welfare budgets during the winter."

Those were the words of one Welfare Mom sitting on the New Haven Green among the blankets and sleeping bags of 20 to 30 welfare families. They had been there four days and nights, since August 28, and some talked of staying weeks or even months.

Governor Meskill has been crowing recently about his budget surplus, his achievements in cost cutting. Here on the Green we see the source of his new found riches. We see the women and children on welfare whose funds were cut 15 to 40% last October and are being cut again under the new flat grant system.

Who Is Involved

Who are these welfare families? One woman in her middle 50's was a nurse. "I don't want to be on welfare," she said, "I worked all my life but my husband died and I've gotten sick. I have a son to take care of. What else can I do?" Another woman was divorced with two small children. "My husband has two jobs and he owes me $7,000 in alimony. But he won't pay and I can't sue. People on welfare aren't allowed. Another woman, who had a few years of college, finally landed a night job in a doughnut shop. She had her application in for seven months. Her husband is disabled and she has one child with cerebral palsy.

Who are welfare people? Working people down on their luck, with no big bank accounts or rich relatives. Some are widowed, some divorced, many are sick or disabled. Are these conditions crimes? Yet you would assume that they were if you heard again and again stories of the indifferent or even cruel treatment these people received from our government.

Conditions

Item: Under the flat grant system a family of two is assumed to live in a one-bedroom apartment for about $51 a month. But even in the worst slums in New Haven no such apartments exist.

Item: One woman had been paying off a mortgage on a house that her husband had bought before his death. The payments have just a few more years to go. Under the flat grant system she can't make the payments. She's going to have to lose the house.

Some Welfare MOMS and Children participate in the Camp-in demonstration on the Green. Their signs demand a stop to the flat grant system.

(MT photo by Vittorio Commisso)

In some ways even more disgusting are the contradictions of the system. One woman said she had chronic flabitus and needed a high protein diet. But the flat grant system doesn't provide enough money for that. Like most poor people her diet must be made up of cheap starches. So she says she will collapse and be hospitalized as she has been in the past. *Then* state welfare will pick up the tab. Better $5,000 for hospital bills than $10 a week extra for meat?

A disabled man told of a friend who had been unemployed for over a year and who was about to lose his unemployment benefits. "He'll go on city welfare for a while and then leave his wife and kids so they can get state aid." Is the purpose of welfare to break up families?

A final note. As I spoke to these welfare mothers, the park's water sprinklers turned on, dousing some blankets and supplies. "We've been trying for days to get the water turned off," said one woman. "The city says they can't shut it off because the sun will burn the grass. They said they would turn some of them off, but here's the water again."

In New Haven grass seems to be more important than people. But the Welfare Moms stay on the Green determined to change that order, determined to end their wretched treatment.

Welfare MOMS Reopen Their Store

by Pati Wolf
New Haven Welfare Moms

The New Haven Welfare MOMS are happy to announce that once again, our new store is open daily at Legion Avenue from 10 AM to 4 PM. Due to the intolerable flat grant system recently imposed on those mothers and children who are now forced to try and exist on welfare, the store is attempting to help clothe people for the winter ahead. As many may recall, the store was burned out last November but now it has been redone and reopened.

The MOMS desperately need clothing, especially children's, as they can't go back to school naked and even on welfare, children do grow. Also the store needs items like coat hangers for the clothing, household items such as pots, pans, dishes, flatware, towels and sheets. They wear out and under the new flat grant system there are no replacements, and the welfare check is now so small you can't buy these items.

So please won't you look around your home and see what you don't need, and give us a call. We would be extremely grateful. Our number is 562-2763. If we all work together, maybe we can all survive.

PERISCOPE
On The Environment

by Tony Dominski
Modern Times Staff

MILKING MASS TRANSIT DRY

Some people milk cows. Others, like Clayton Gengras, owner of Connecticut Company, milk bus companies. He already milked one bus company in Washington, D.C. and now New Haven mass transit is threatened, along with the environmental benefits like cleaner air and less crowded streets that go along with it. What we need to do now is to milk Gengras of the $6 million he stole from Connecticut Company and establish a public transit system run by the city or state. It is insane to allow greed rather than need to control our transportation system.

U.S. SEES ENVIRONMENTAL DANGERS IN NEW UI COKE WORKS PLANT

It is now painfully clear that the current reckless expansion of electric power threatens our environment. We are already familiar with the powerline controversy centered around the new U.I. plant. Now the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency gives us a few more goodies to worry about. In commenting on an Environmental statement prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers for the project, they came up with the following list of dangers.

1) The plant would make it difficult to meet federal clean air goals.
2) The cooling system may entrap and destroy oyster larvae.
3) The use of toxic chemicals in the cooling system may cause environmental damage.
4) Several varieties of fish attracted to hot water might suffer cold shock during their winter migration from the harbor.

NEW HAVEN CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

This past summer a new local public interest group called New Haven Citizen Action Project got off the ground. It is modeled on - although independent of - the Ralph Nader public interest efforts. Current areas of action include occupational health, investigation of auto repair fraud and involvement with Citizens for a Better Mass Transit System. It has an office in the old Loomis Temple of Music, 100 Orange Street, phone 787-7405.

Did You Get A Lemon For A Car? CARP Will Come To Your Aid

Is your car a lemon? call CARP. The Community Auto Research Project (CARP) is now open at 101 Orange Street in New Haven. The center is sponsored by the New Haven Citizen's Action Project (NEW CAP).

"CARP is different from most auto complaint agencies," says Michael Kane, director of NEWCAP. "Most 'hot-line' type complaint agencies merely take complaints and process them themselves. We try to involve the complainant in the active solution of his or her own problems. Thus we give them names of people to write or call, and support him or her in the fight against the dealer of manufacturer. Our aim with CARP is to restore to auto consumers a sense of power in the marketplace."

CARP will handle any type of complaint against the auto industry, both as they come in and on an issue by issue basis. In the beginning they plan to concentrate their efforts on two main areas: getting refunds for passenger car owners from manufacturers for the recently repealed excise tax, and handling new car warranty problems.

"We are looking to organize consumers to band together to fight for a solution of their problems," says David Lonsdorf, CARP staff member. **"In a collective effort there is more power. Too many consumers find themselves isolated and beleagured by the mounds of bureaucratic red tape they must wade through to achieve any kind of satisfaction for new car defects from the dealer or the manufacturer. By collective pressure we hope to cut through the delaying tactics used by corporate customer service agencies to *avoid* consumers rather than to help them."**

"It seems to be a common experience for lemon owners who, stuck with a car that won't run, and having received the corporate straight-arm, feel either too helpless or too tired to pursue their claim any further," states Mark Bagdon, another CARP staff member. "The scope of the problem is clearly massive. There was a recent **Consumers' Report** survey which indicated that **the average car rolls off the assembly line carrying 25 defects, many of them constituting significant safety hazards."**

CARP will receive complaints through three different channels: a phone line open weekdays from 9 6 (787-7405). by mail (P.O. Box 780, New Haven, Conn.) and in person at the storefront office.

CARP will also act as an educational and research center. It will dispense literature on how to buy a new or used car, what to do with your bad car, a consumer's guide to the local auto industry, and information on auto safety and pollution standards.

On The Job

Took Pay Cut To Be Teacher

The following story is an interview with a New Haven sixth grade teacher. He prefers to remain anonymous.

by Eileen Hoffman

Mr. Teacher has worked as a sixth grade teacher for the last three years. Since his school has no gym, cafeteria or other special subject teacher, his job includes everything from art lessons to sex education.

Despite this, Mr. Teacher really likes his job. In fact he took a $1,000 cut in pay from his previous job, which was in the City Government, to become a teacher. Why? He was bored downtown, sitting in an office doing what he thought was wasteful stuff. In addition, he really likes to work with kids.

"Teachers get disgusted with the administration in their school and/or the city over the lack of discipline, and lack of cooperation from the administration. If you don't like it, you're out of a job in a year or two. Either they can tell you to get out or you get out yourself. Most teachers I know though, enjoy it. Before a lot of people were in it to get out of the draft, but that's not hanging over most everyone's head. Especially if you go into teaching now--there's so few jobs God, you really want it."

The city knows that the teachers are not in the mood to strike--when there are 4,000 applications for 20-30 jobs and you know there are at least 50 people dying to have your job and probably willing to take it for lower pay, you're not so eager to risk it.

Mr. Teacher is a building representative in the New Haven Federation of Teachers, a union he joined even before he started teaching. Why? Well, if you look at the salaries and benefits before and after the existence of the union you can see why "there have been phenomenal pay increases. The starting pay used to be $5,000 and since the union has been around, it's now up to $8.000. Before the union we just used to get pushed around all over, but not with a union, a fairly strong union, we have these great increases."

War on Two Fronts

Mr. Teacher feels that there is a strong connection between the war and the problems the teachers are now facing. "The war is costing a lot of money and taxes are going up. It's very easy to put the two together. If the government wasn't pushing so much money into the war they'd be able to push more money into the cities. The more money the cities have, the more can go into social relation functions--humans resources, education, welfare--things like that. Also, the federal government isn't geared to the cities as other administrations have been."

Teacher Stands Alone

One of Mr. Teacher's complaints about being a teacher concerns control in the classroom. "You try to have some control in class and get no support from your principal or downtown. I don't know if they're afraid to confront the parents or what. If you don't have control in the room the kids are not going to learn. The kids I've had in the last few years don't like chaos either. Most kids come to school and are willing to learn. They goof off if they get a chance, but if someone acts up and is sent to the office and returns in two minutes with nothing but a talking to, he tells his friends and they know they can get away with it."

Mr. Teacher doesn't have a teachers aid in his class. They are mostly concentrated on the younger grades. "But that's O.K. because the earlier you get a kid and help him out, the better it is later on. For what the aids get paid they do a heck of a job."

What's In It For Teach

Well, does this reading, writing, arithmetic, art, music, gym, etc., etc., etc., teacher get adequately compensated? Mr. Teacher thinks that the salary is o.k. He will have his master's degree in a year and will make $10,000. To someone who started out making a buck an hour, in a grocery store, Mr. Teacher thinks that's pretty good. His big gripe, however, is that "the other city unions that have settled their contracts got their 5.5% increase and now they're telling teachers "forget about even talking about money, and we're even going to take things away from you - things which I walked the picket line for two years ago. They're now talkin g about "removing the restrictions on the number of classes we teach and the number of kids we're responsible for, plus reducing benefits like personal and sick days."

New Techniques In Teaching Seen

The Teacher Center in the basement of 425 College Street serves teachers as a drop-in center, a resource center, a workshop organizer, an advisory service, and is available to do in-service programs for school systems and community organizations. Corinne Levin, coordinator of the Center, helps staff the Center which is open Monday through Thursday, 2:30-5:30, and Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The Center also schedules special programs at other times of the month. Pictured above are scenes from the Summer Workshop '72, a three week program featuring the 'Integrated Day' and funded by the New World Foundation. With five resident faculty members and some staff from the Talcott Mountain Science Center for Student Involvement 25 teachers explored new techniques in teaching by 'getting in and doing it". Drop by or call the Teacher Center at 776-5987. (Photos courtesy of the Teacher Center)

Waiting at the Station H. Daumier

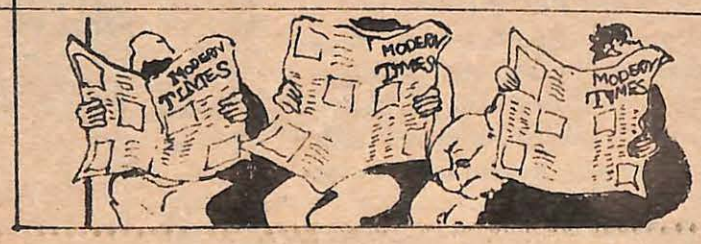
There are times when you'd like to read a paper.
A good paper.
MODERN TIMES
Subscribe now.

Name_____
Address_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____

$3.50 per year(!) $15.00 Sponsoring
(includes mailing costs)

MODERN TIMES
441 Chapel Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510

Bulk Rate
US Postage
PAID
4.02 ¢
New Haven, Conn.
Permit No. 89



Babysitter needed for a great one year old. Monday and Wednesday all day and Tuesday mornings. Just off Grand Ave. near Blatchly St. Reasonable rate. Please call Julia, 562-7445.